# THE LITERARY CHRONICLE

And Weekly Review;

Forming an Analysis and General Repository of Literature, Philosophy, Science, Arts, History, the Drama, Morals, Manners, and Amusements.

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## Review of New Books.

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Description of the Ruins of an Ancient City discovered near Palenque, in the Kingdom of Guatemala, in Spanish America: translated from the original Manuscript Report of Capt. Don Antonio del Rio; followed by Teatro Critico Americano; or, a Critical Investigation and Research into the History of the Americans. By Doctor Paul Felix Cabrera, of the City of New Guatemala. 4to. pp. 128. London, 1822.

THE two subjects which this volume embraces, are of singular interest and curiosity, insomuch as they go far to establish proofs of what has hitherto been mere conjecture,—the intercourse between the old and the new world long before the discoveries of Columbus or Vespucius Americus. Full and conclusive evidence on this point cannot yet perhaps be expected, but we trust that, as South America is now shaking off its political, it will also emerge from its mental vassalage, and that important discoveries relative to its early history will soon be made.

It has always been a subject of deep regret, that the religious fanaticism of the first conquerors of New Spain led them to destroy all the records of history, which had been carefully preserved by the ancient Mexicans, in order, as they fallaciously imagined, to obliterate altogether the venerated traditions of paganism and the worship of their heathen divinities. By this means the Spaniards thought to forward the cause of christianity, but, far from accomplishing that object, they only enveloped history in such a mazy labyunth of doubt, that the most learned and experienced writers upon the subject have found it utterly impossible to solve the grand mystery of the origin of the Mexicans.

One step towards this solution is furhished by the volume before us, which, while it gives some new dates on which to rest, opens a new era in the field of historic speculation.

the work before us, it appears very satisfactorily proved. The original manuscript of Capt. del Rio's Report, together with the essay of Cabrera, were deposited among the archives of the city of New Guatemala; whence they have been obtained by a gentleman who was for many years a resident in that city, and they are now deposited with Mr. Berthond, the publisher of the present work. But, as to the existence of the Palencian city, there is a confirma. tion by Mr. Humboldt, who, in his Travels, not only mentions its existence, but has inserted an engraving from one of the pictorial illustrations of the present volume.

It is remarkable that although Capt. Rio's discoveries were made in 1787, and Cabrera's erudite investigation was written in 1794; yet, since these periods, both have slumbered in the archives of New Guatemala. circumstance, however, will scarcely excite surprise, when we consider the peculiar apathy of the Spanish character, so far as relates to any vestiges of antiquity; the jealousy entertained by that nation with regard to their possessions in Mexico, and the consequent desire they had of burying in total oblivion any circumstance that might conduce to awaken the curiosity or excite the cupidity of more scientific and enterprising nations. Such, indeed, has been, and such is the secrecy still maintained upon this head, that at the city of Mexico, and even at New Guatemala, the existence of the extensive ruins of the Palencian city is scarcely known. We now proceed to Capt. del Rio's Report, which was made in consequence of a royal order.

The rained city, which is called Casas de Piedras (stone houses) is within three leagues of Palenque in the province of Ciudad Real de Chiapa. Captain del Rio, it appears, had previously visited the ruins, and that his report is the result of a second examination, which he made in May, 1786. The principal building was surrounded by copse wood and large trees, and it With regard to the authenticity of cost him the labour of a hundred Indians, for several days, to fell the timbers and burn the copse wood so as to approach the ruins; he also made several excavations three yards in depth, and cleared every window and doorway that had been blocked up. Of the situation of the ruins, Captain del Rio gives the following description:-

' From Palenque, the last town north, ward in the province of Ciudad Real de Chiapa, taking a south-westerly directionand ascending a ridge of high land that divides the kingdom of Guatemala from Yucatan, or Campeachy, at the distance of two leagues, is the little river Micol, whose waters, flowing in a westerly direction, unite with the great river Tulija, which bends its course towards the province of Tabasco; having passed the Micol, the ascent begins, and, at half a league from thence, the traveller crosses a little stream called Otolum, discharging its waters into the before-mentioned current: from this point heaps of ruins are discovered, which render the road very difficult for another half league, when you gain the height whereon the stone houses are situated, being fourteen in number, some more dilapidated than others, but still having many of their apartments perfectly discernible.

'A rectangular area, three bundred yards in breadth by four hundred and fifty in length, presents a plain at the base of the highest mountain, forming the ridge, and in the centre is situated the largest of these structures which has been as yet discovered: it stands on a mound twenty yards high, and is surrounded by the other edifices; namely, five to the northward, four to the southward, one to the southwest, and three to the eastward. In all directions the fragments of other fallen buildings are to be seen extending along the mountain, that stretches east and west, about three or four leagues either way, so that the whole range of this ruined town may be computed to extend between seven and eight leagues; but its breadth is by no means equal to its length, being little more than half a league wide at the point where the ruins terminate, which is towards the river Micol, that winds round the base of the mountain, whence descend small streams, that wash the foundation of the ruins on their banks, so that, were it not for the thick umbrageous follage of the trees, they would present to the view so many beautiful serpentine ri-

'It might be inferred that this people

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had had some analogy to, and intercourse with the Romans, from a similarity in the choice of situation as well as a subterranean stone aqueduct of great solidity and durability, which passes under the largest

building.

'I do not take upon myself to assert that these conquerors did actually land in this country; but there is reasonable ground for hazarding a conjecture that some inhabitants of that polished nation did visit these regions; and that, from such intercourse, the natives might have imbibed, during their stay, an idea of the arts, as a reward for their hospitality.'

The interior of the large building is in a style of architecture strongly resembling the Gothic; and, from its rude and massive construction, promised

great durability:

'The entrance is on the eastern side, by a portico or corridor thirty-six varas, or yards, in length, and three in breadth, supported by plain rectangular pillars, without either bases or pedestals, upon which there are square smooth stones of more than a foot in thickness, forming an architrave, while, on the exterior superficies are species of stucco shields, the designs of some of them, accompanying this report, are numbered 1, 2, 3, while, over these stones, there is another plain rectangular block, five feet long and six broad, extending over two of the pillars. Medallions or compartments in stucco, containing different devices of the same material, appear as decorations to the chambers: and it is presumable, from the vestiges of the heads which can still be traced, that they were the busts of a series of kings or lords to whom the natives were subject. Between the medallions there is a range of windows like niches, passing from one end of the wall to the other, some of them are square, some in the form of a Greek cross, and others, which complete the cross, are square, being about two feet high and eight inches deep. Beyond this corridor there is a square court, entered by a flight of seven steps; the north side is entirely in ruins, but sufficient traces remain to show that it once had a chamber and corridor similar to those on the eastern side, and which continued entirely along the several angles. The south side has four small chambers with no other ornament than one or two little windows, like those already described. The western side is correspondent to its opposite in all respects, but in the variety of expression of the figures in stucco: these are much more rude and ridiculous than the others, and can only be attributed to the most uncultivated Indian capacity. The device is a sort of grotesque mask, with a crown and long beard like that of a goat; under this are two Greek crosses, the one delineated in the other.

'It is by no means improbable that these fantastic forms, and others equally whimsical, were the delineations of some of their deities, to whom they paid an

idolatrous worship, consistent with their false belief and barbarous customs.

Jupiter crowned with laurel, the visage presenting mature age, having a long beard and a terrible aspect; and a similar cast of countenance, in these representations, leads one to reflect on a sameness of manners and religion, as the particular traits in the two heads are alike, with the exception of those advantages conveyed to a bust by Roman sculpture, the principles of which this people could have obtained but imperfectly, although they might have imbibed some ideas from their conquerors or from other intermediate nations,—the common result of conquest in all ages.

' Proceeding in the same direction, there is another court, similar in length to the last, but not so broad, having a passage round it that communicated with the opposite side; in this passage there are two chambers like those above-mentioned, and an interior gallery looking on one side upon the court-yard, and commanding, on the other, a view of the open country. In this part of the edifice some pillars yet remain, on which are the relievos shown in figures 8, 9, 10, and 11; they apparently represent a mouraful subjest, alluding, no doubt, to the sacrifice of some wretched Indian, the destined victim of a sanguinary religion.'

One of the towers is sixteen yards high; it has a well imitated artificial entrance. Among the embellishments in the two chambers, which are well ornamented in the rude Indian style, are some enamelled stuccos, apparently of

devotionary subjects.

Captain del Rio entered a subterranean passage through an aperture

like a hatchway. He says:-

'On reaching the second door, artificial light was necessary to continue the descent into this gloomy abode, which was by a very gentle declivity. It has a turning at right angles, and, at the end of the side passage, there is another door, communicating with a chamber sixty-four yards long, and almost as large as those before described; beyond this room there is still another, similar in every respect, and having light admitted into it by some windows commanding a corridor fronting the south, and leading to the exterior of the edifice. Neither bas-reliefs nor any other embellishments were found in these places; nor did they present to notice any object, excepting some plain stones two yards and a half long, by one yard and a quarter broad, arranged horizontally upon four square stands of masonry, rising about half a yard above the ground. These I consider to have been receptacles for sleeping, and this a place for retirement during the night; a belief in which I am still more confirmed from the circumstance of the large stones being partitioned off in the forms of alcoves. Here all the

nothing but stones and earth were discovered by digging, I determined on proceeding to one of the buildings, situated on an eminence to the south, of about forty yards in height. This edifice, forming a parallelogram, resembled the first in its style of archi ecture; it has square pillars, an exterior gallery, and a saloon twenty yards long by three and a half broad, embellished with a frontispiece, on which are described female figures with children in their arms, all of the natural size, executed in stucco medio reliefs: these representations are without heads. Some whimsical designs, serving as ornaments to the corners of the house, I brought away; but all knowledge respecting them is concealed from us, owing to no traditionary information or written documents being preserved, explanatory of their real meaning, and the manner in which the inhabitants used such devices for the conveyance of their thoughts.'

In the course of his researches several earthen vases and pots were found containing some small pieces of challa in the shape of lancets, or the blades of razors, several small bones, grinders, &c. Such are the principal objects discovered by Captain del Rio, who is very careful in not offering conjectures either as to the antiquity of the buildings, or the object for which they were erected. All that we can gather from him on these points is, that when speaking of the bas reliefs, or some stones which he had discovered in a subterraneous depository, he says:—

'It is unnecessary to dilate on the subjects represented by the bas-reliefs on the three stones, or on the situation of the articles found in this place; they convey to the mind an idea that it was in this spot they venerated, as sacred objects, the remains of their greatest heroes, to whom they erected trophies recording the particular distinctions they had merited from their country, by their services or the victories obtained over its enemies, while the inscriptions on the tablets were intended to eternise their names; for, to this object, the characters, as well as the bas-reliefs surrounding them, evidently refer.

'The other two edifices are of similar architecture, and divided internally in the same manner as the one above described, varying only in the allegorical subjects of the bas-reliefs on the stones.'

Again, speaking of three stones, of similar size, as those here alluded to, which formed a sort of oratory, he says:

quarter broad, arranged horizontally upon four square stands of masonry, rising about half a yard above the ground. These I consider to have been receptacles for sleeping, and this a place for retirement during the night; a belief in which I am still more confirmed from the circumstance of the large stones being partitioned off in the forms of alcoves. Here all the doors and separations terminated, and, as

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grad duc love till anti one of these nations pursued their conquests even to this country, where it is probable they only remained long enough to enable the Indian tribes to imitate their ideas, and adopt, in a rude and awkward manner, such arts as their invaders thought fit to inculcate.'

It is much to be regretted, that although there are thirty engravings of the principal objects discovered by Captain del Rio, including a ground plan and elevation of the ruins, yet the reference from them to the text is nearly unintelligible, on account of the plates not being numbered. There are also references in the Report to drawings which did not fall into the hands of the publisher of the volume. But, notwithstanding these disadvantages, the subject possesses sufficient interest to make us anxious that the Palencian ruins and the other antiquities of the new world should now have some of that antiquarian attention and research which have been so successful in Egypt and other places. Our friend Belzoni, if not otherwise employed, would be a very proper person to send to Mexico for the purpose; for nothing would damp his ardour for exploring ruins, and what he could not bring away with him, he would very ably describe. Cabrera's Critical Investigation we reserve for our next number.

The Hopes of Matrimony; a Poem. By John Holland, author of 'Sheffield Park,' &c. 12mo. pp. 68. London, 1822.

The Hopes of Matrimony!'—What an attractive title, and what lady, whether on the right or wrong side of fifty, provided she is a spinster, does not entertain those hopes. 'Marriage is honourable to all,' says the apostle, though our legislature, in a recent enactment, appear to have thought otherwise, by the obstructions they have thrown in the way of contracting it.

'The Hopes of Matrimony' is a poem in three parts, by an author who, though favourably known to the publie, is still 'in a situation in life which compels him to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, and to labour for the support of a family with the welfare of which he stands connected as a brother and a son.' Under such disadvantages, the author's muse has, no doubt, much to struggle with, and although his little work cannot lay claim to the higher graces of poesy, yet it is a pleasing production. He traces the progress of love through courtship and matrimony till the parties become grandsires, and anticipate in their offspring the happi-

There is an amiable and gentle feeling of kindness and affection breathed through every line of the poem, the basis of which is strict morality.—The following invocation to woman and enlogy on home and wedlock have a great deal of nature and simplicity, and possess considerable poetic merit:—

'Hail, Woman! whose transcendent charms un-

Celestial lineaments in earthly mould!
Shrined in the heart, affection bows to thee,
Thou object fair of Love's idolatry!
Man boasts his majesty, yet owns the while,
Alike omnipotent, thy frown or smile:
Thy frown can chafe the haughtiest spirit's pride;
Creation's lord walks humbly at thy side,—
A suppliant sues for favours at thy seat,
Or bows a slave, and cringes at thy feet.
Thy smile, since woman's empire first began,
Calls up the latent energies of man;
To high achievements tempts his soul to press,
Thyself his glerious guerdon of success.

'Benignant woman! since thy sex had birth,
An angel of humanity on earth!
'Tis thine for man t'indure maternal throes,
To cherish him, to watch his brief repose;
To him the elements of thought to teach,
Guard his first step, and prompt his earliest

'Tis thine to wake the latent powers of youth To generous manhood and ingenuous truth; O'er sinking age to smile in life's eclipse, And pour the balm of comfort on his lips; When o'er his sick bed bends thy angel form, Love's bow of promise through affliction's storm.

'What though in Sacred Writ we early find How fell the sire and mother of mankind; How, in this birth-day of transgression, she Plucked first, and tasted the forbidden tree; Though Homer's song pursues its epic path 'Twixt Juno's hatred and Pelides' wrath; And leagued with Greece or Troy, the world in

Whose torch of discord was an Helen's charms;
And e'en Olympus' forked summit nods,
While heaven's proud queen withstands the sire
of gods:—

Though Cleopatra to the spicy gales
On cooling Cnidus spread her silken sails,
The banner of whose beauty there unfurl'd,
Its conquest lost Marc Antony the world:—
Yet does no record boast the glorious names
Of holy virgins and unspotted dames?
Whose worth shall live embalmed in prose or

A sweet memorial to the end of time?

Ask Holy Writ of female names approved,
How Sarah, Rachel, and Rebecca loved.

Eve fell:—hear Gabriel's salutation now:

"Hail, Mary!—blessed among women thou."

Ask epic song, (though Dido there expires,
A rash love-martyr in unhallowed fires,)
How chaste Penelope for ten years spurn'd
The suitor-train, till her lost lord return'd:
—Ask history's page, how Rome's Lucretia died,
And Tarquin's death avenged the ravished bride.

Yet where—oh where, amidst created space,
Does woman's presence shed the sweetest grace?
Not in the north, where Greenland's winter strows
Stern desolation o'er the realm of snows;
Where dwarfish men with boreal rigours strive,
And bears and ice-berg's seem alone to thrive.
—Not where Khorassin's Harem-gardens gem
The sun-nurst regions of the land of Shem;

Where houri beauties traverse fields of spice, The Meccan prophet's type of paradise. Not in the east, where the sage Bramin roves Through Hindostan, or Ceylon's spicy groves; Where superstition triumphs o'er the fire, And woman burns alive on her dead husband's

No—most divinely nuptial bliss excels,
Where pure religion with refinement dwells;
Where Albion's land a glorious spot is seen,
The world'a just wonder, and the ocean's queen;
And, bound within the girdle of her smile,
Scotia's proud hills and Erin's emerald isle.
Hither, howe'er th' unchanging Briton roam,
Hope flies for country, friendship, wife, and

How fair is home, in fancy's picturing theme, In wedded life, in love's romantic dream! Thence springs each hope; there every wish returns.

Pure as the flame that upward, heavenward, burns;

There sits the wife, whose radiant smile is given,
The daily sun of the domestic heaven;
And when calm evening sheds a secret power,
Her looks of love emparadise the hour;
While children round, a beauteous train, appear
Attendant stars revolving in her sphere.

We recommend this poem to all our readers, and particularly to such portion of them as are still in the state of 'single blessedness.' We can assure them that it is a great deal more interesting and instructive than the late marriage-act, which, it appears, our clergy sometimes read instead of a sermon: we have no objection to this, as it is, no doubt, in obedience to some clause of that sage enactment; but the minister ought really to give previous public notice, in order that the hearing it might be a matter of choice.

Persia: containing a brief Description of the Country; and an Account of its Government, Laws, and Religion, and of the Character, Manners and Customs, Arts, Amusements, &c., of its Inhabitants. Illustrated with thirty coloured engravings. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1822.

Persia forms the last published division of the World in Miniature; and it is only necessary to say, that, in point of interest, literary merit, and embellishment, it is fully equal to any that have preceded it. In the introduction, Mr. Shoberl, who edites these volumes, gives a general view of the antiquity and present situation of Persia, its population, &c. This is followed by an account of the government, legislation, religion, manners, and customs of the Persians; and the work concludes with a view of the state of arts and sciences in that country.

The Persians are very superstitious, so much so, that even the king will not leave his capital, undertake any

expedition, or receive an ambassador, [trance of the sun into the sign of Aries, till he has had intimation, from his astrologer, of the fortunate hour for the act:-

Sir Robert Porter informs us that, in the course of his journey, several peasants, hearing of his destination and wishing to travel that way, begged to be admitted to the protection of his company, on account of the unsafe state of the roads. The request was granted, and the men mounted their horses; but, just at the moment of setting out, one of these strangers happened to sneeze. This dreadful omen suddenly stopped the whole party; it was a sign foreboding evil, and no arguments could prevail on them to move

on that day.

Another species of superstition, very common among the Persians, is the faith they have in a charm called the dum, or breath, which, they say, secures them against the bite of snakes and the sting of scorpions; and the courage with which those who are supposed to possess it encounter those reptiles is remarkable -Among the servants who accompanied the British embassy with Mr. Morier, one or two had this charm: whenever a snake or a scorpion was found, they were immediately called to seize it. The ferash-bashi, or chief of the tent-pitchers, was remarkathe for his prowess in such encounters. I saw him one day, says the above-mentioned traveller, seize a snake with his naked hand, but the animal turned upon him, bit him, and hung upon him till blood came. The snake was not venomous, and therefore, perhaps, he seized it with confidence.

'Not long before our countryman was at Shiraz, there lived in that city a man greatly celebrated for his sanctity, who had the reputation to possess the dum to such a degree, that he communicated it to his disciples, who again dispensed it to the multitude. A young mirza, brother to the then acting vizir of Shiraz, gave to the British ambassador, as a great present, a knife, which he said had been charmed by this holy man, and, if rubbed over the bite of a snake, would instantly cure it. One of his disciples was at Shiraz while we were there, says Mr. Morier, and he willingly complied with our request, that he would communicate his charm to us. The operation was simple enough. From his pocket he took a piece of sugar, over which he mumbled some words, breathed upon it, and then required that -we should eat it, in full belief that neither serpent nor scorpion could ever more harm us. He then pulled some snakes out of a bag, which some of us, whose confidence was strong, ventured to handle and flourish in the air.'

New Year's Day is a great festival samong the Persians; their mode of celebrating it is thus described :-

· Djemshid, one of the most illustrious of the ancient monarchs of Persia, instithe la festival in celebration of the en-

the moment at which the solar year com-

'This festival, called Nowroose, or New Day, the ancient Persians held on the first of the month of Ferverdyn, corresponding with March, with which their year began. The rejoicings on this occasion lasted six days. On the morning of the first day of the Nowroose, a youth of handsome person, representing the new year, entered the king's chamber, at the moment of the sun's appearance above the horizon. "Who art thou?" asked the king. "Whence comest thou? Whither goest thou? What is thy name?"-"I am the happy, the blessed," replied the youth: "God hath sent me hither, and I bring with me the new year." He was followed by another youth, who presented to the monarch a silver salver, upon which were wheat, barley, sesamum, rice, (seven ears and seven grains of each,) sugar, and two pieces of gold. The ministers, the officers of the empire, and even the private subjects were admitted to the foot of the throne. When the grain presented to the sovereign was made into bread, some of it was carried to the king, who ate a piece himself, and divided the remainder among the surrounding assemblage, saying .- "This is the first day of a new epoch; it is right to renew what time produces." With these words he gave robes of honour to his officers.

'On the first of the six days of this festival the king was wholly engaged with the welfare of his people and the means of rendering them happy. The second he devoted to the astrologers and the learned; the third to the priests and to his counsellors; the fourth to the princes of the blood and the grandees; the fifth to the children of the royal family; and the sixth to his subjects generally; receiving on that day the presents which they were accustomed to make him.

The conversion of Persia to Islamism was followed by the abolition of this festival; for the fanaticism of the first Musulmans would not have suffered a solemnity commemorative of any other religion than that of Mahomet, which was to overturn all other creeds, and to reign over the whole earth. The Guebres alone conti- and other trifling articles, for the pronued to celebrate the Nowroose. But, when Malek Shah resolved to reform the calendar and instituted the era called after his name, the astronomers, having observed to him that he ascended the throne on the first day of the spring equinox, and that it would be but right to receive the solemnity of that day in honour of such an important event, the Seljuk monarch, delighted with a proposal so flattering to his vanity, eagerly adopted the idea. Ever since his time, that is, since the end of the fifth century of the hegira, or the eleventh of our era, the Nouroose has been celebrated with great pomp throughout all Persia.

'This civil festival, the only one which

nected, as in the early ages, with the religion of the country, has nevertheless retained many ceremonies similar to those of antiquity.

On the day when the festival is to begin, the astrologers, magnificently dressed. repair to the palace of the king or of the governor of the province, and station themselves on a terrace or in a belvidere. to watch the moment of the sun's entrance into the sign of Aries. As soon as they have announced it, numerous volleys of musketry are fired; horns, kettle-drums, and trumpets rend the air: all sorts of sports and amusements commence throughout the whole city; and high and low give themselves up to the wildest joy. During the three days that the Nowroose lasts, there is nothing but feasting, horseracing, exercises, and exhibitions of various kinds: every one appears in his best apparel or in new clothes, pays and receives visits, and makes presents to his acquaintance, who offer him their's in return. The day before the Nowroose, they mutually send one another eggs, painted and gilt, which sometimes cost two or three guineas. This practice of presenting eggs on new year's day seems to derive its origin from India.

'When the moment of the equinox is past, all the grandees repair to court, and present their offerings to the king; those of the princes and the governors of provinces and cities are presented by their agents. These presents consist of jewels, rich stuffs, precious stones, perfumes, horses, and even money. Their value is proportionate to the rank and fortune of the giver: for the lowest officer is obliged to make his present just as well as the Bylerbey. Sir Robert Porter states, and, as he assures us, from unquestionable authority, that the personal present made every Novroose to the king by Hadjee Mohammed Hossein Khan, while he governed the province of Ispahan, amounted to not less than 200,000 too-

mauns.'

In Persia, gypsies are found scattered in small bands all over the country; they lead there the same vagabond life as their brethren do with us. The men steal, make sieves, hair ropes, duce of which they pay a yearly tribute. The women beg and tell fortunes; the latter being generally muttered over a few torn leaves from an European book, on the blade bone of a sheep, and accompanied with the thread of your life, which mysterious gift consists of a piece of worsted, knotted more or less according to the mishaps or obstacles that are to occur in the real line of the destiny to which it is attached.

Of the state of medicine and surgery in Persia, our author gives the follow-

ing account :-

'The science of medicine among the the Persians have, though no longer con- Persians, not being founded either on

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conjecture for its guide. This profession, which is despised by the Turks, is considered honourable in Persia. It is not taught in academical institutions, as in Europe, but each of its professors takes a number of pupils, to whom he communicates the results of his experience.

'Their system of practice is derived from the Greeks, and has descended to them with very little alteration. According to their theory, things are either hot or cold in certain degrees, and the only question they have to resolve is, whether the disease proceeds from too much heat or too much cold. Heat must be repelled by cold, and cold by heat. China-root with them is almost a sovereign remedy against all complaints. When they administer it, the patient is confined in a room where the smallest breath of air is to be carefully shut out, so that he not only suffers from his complaint, but also from intense heat. Tavernier mentions, that they give horse-flesh for the cholic; and Mr. Scott Waring was witness to nearly as curious an experiment. A poor man was violently afflicted with heart-burn, and, instead of prescribing an internal medicine, they heaped on his breast a great quantity of ice and snow, which they said was an effectual cure. Kotzebue relates a similar instance in the treatment of one of the musicians belonging to the Russian embassy. This man, being a Mahometan, had not sufficient confidence in the physician to the embassy, and desired that a Persian doctor might be called in. His disorder was an inflammatory fever. The Persian doctor appeared and prescribed for the patient a large quantity of ice, which the poor fellow swallowed with ecstacy, and died on the third day.

'In the country, physic is practised by men who stroll from village to village, and demand payment in advance for the medicines which they administer. Though they have in general but the most superficial notions of their art, they assume an importance and a tone of assurance which give the lower classes a high opinion of their skill. They are never at a loss, and you can never take them by surprise. Provided with a little bag, containing a few plants, drugs, and instruments, they give, at the moment of being consulted, a draught or an opiate, apply leeches or the cautery, bleed or send their patient to the bath or the gymnasium, without consideration or judgment, and without any motive for preferring one mode of treatment to the other.

'The Mahometan religion, in prohibiting dissection, bars the way to all anatomical knowledge. Surgery, therefore, is in a worse state than medicine, and the skill of its professors is confined to the application of plasters to wounds, and leeches and the cautery to parts affected with pain, the reduction of a dislocated joint, and the opening of an external abscess.

'In short, the sciences of medicine and

anatomy or physiology, has nothing but a trade; and they imagine they can acquire them with as little difficulty as their brothers learned to make a shoe or mend a shawl.

> To pass from grave to gay, take the following account of dancing:-

> 'Among the Persians, dancing is left almost entirely to females of the lowest class and the most depraved morals. A dancer and a courtesan are with them synonymous terms. In this art the Persian women display incomparable agility, and it is in this, rather than in the graceful combination of their steps and motions, that their talent consists.

> ' From the accounts of the most recent travellers, it would appear, that it is men chiefly, or rather boys, and not females, who follow the profession of dancing for the amusement of the great, whose entertainments generally conclude with this kind of exhibition. Kotzebue, who, by the bye, seems to have carried with him to Persia some very obstinate Russian prejudices, which we shrewdly suspect to have led him to overcharge many of his descriptions relative to that country, gives a ludicrous picture of the performances of a company of dancers employed on such an

> occasion by the serdar of Erivan. 'Their music, says he, consisted of a guitar, a sort of violin with three strings, two tambourines, and a singer. The latter, with frightful grimaces, strained his throat, apparently in strong convulsions; fortunately for us, however, he frequently covered his face, according to the custom of the country, with a piece of paper, and spared us the sight of his hideous grimaces. The musicians did not play out of tune, but still the effect of the whole sounded not unlike a concert of cats. Three handsome boys, closhed in long garments, decorated with silk ribbons of different colours, were so inspired by this discordant music, and the screams of the singer, that they began dancing and throwing themselves into various attitudes. They had small metal castanets, which they struck in time with the dance. I believe that two of these youths were meant to represent females, because their motions were slower and more modest; but the third boy tumbled about most furiously, turning alternately to each of the others. The most ludicrous part of the entertainment, however, was to follow. The music suddenly rose to a loud pitch, the singer screamed unmercifully, and the three boys tumbled in somersets, to the extremity of the hall; where two of them remained in a graceful attitude, while the third stood upon his head showing his pantaloons and naked feet. There was one particular feat which the dancers performed with great address; they turned several times in the air, without touching the ground with their

We conclude with a notice of the fine arts in Persia:-

hands or feet.

' At the present day, sculpture is so uturgery are with these people nothing but I terly neglected by the Persians, that it is I details with the most perfect works of an-

doubtful whether there is a single statue in the whole kingdom.

'In their paintings, nature and taste are always violated. They sacrifice grace and expression to brilliancy of colouring: they have some little knowledge of light and shade, but know nothing of perspective. It is no [un] common thing in a Persian painting to see a man nearly as tall as a mountain; or, in their representations of a battle, a line of guns, on which is formed a line of infantry, and over that a line of cavalry. The Persian artists are nevertheless very happy at catching a likeness, and paint portraits better than any thing else. Those who paint landscapes generally study some daub sent out from England, or perhaps from China, and these they look upon as master-pieces. They give the preference to our figures, but consider the colouring of the Chinese as much superior.

'It is in the decoration of walls and ceilings that their talents are most conspicuous. Their paintings commonly represent some subject of ancient history, such as the achievements of Roustam, the loves of Shireen and Khosru, or remarkable actions of princes of modern times. Their only merit consists in furnishing faithful likenesses of the persons whom they pourtray; as works of art they are quite contemptible, merely exhibiting a confused multitude of disproportioned figures of men and horses, intermingled in the most

ridiculous manner.

'In architecture, as well as sculpture, the ancient Persians surpassed their descendants. Such, at least, is the opinion we are authorised to form by the ruins of Persepolis, Shuster, and Kendjaver, and the remains of the palace of Khosru, in the ancient Ctesiphon. The principal architectural works of the present day are the domes and minarets of the mosques. The ceilings and the domes are so rich and so exquisitely finished as to excite astonishment; and it is frequently the case that more labour and expense are bestowed on the decoration of a ceiling than on all the rest of the edifice to which it be-

'The most magnificent of the remains of antiquity in Persia, from which some inference may be drawn respecting the state of architecture in that country two or three thousand years ago, are indisputably the ruins of Persepolis. They are situated in the plain of Merdasht, one of the most fertile in Persia, to the left of the road leading from Ispahan to Shiraz. Let the reader figure to himself the side of a mountain of the hardest marble, presenting an unequal area or platform, 1200 feet in length and 1690 in depth, cut perpendicularly, and surrounded with a wall faced with marble, 4000 feet in circumference. Let the imagination place on this terrace porticoes, columns, walls, flights of steps, the whole of marble, without any apparent mixture of stone: edifices vying in dimensions and in the majesty of their

tiquity extant; aqueducts hewn out of the solid rock; lastly, a mountain cut perpendicularly throughout its whole length and forming its eastern wall. Such was, in past ages, the general appearance of the temple or palace of Persepolis. The genius of destruction now hovers round this terrace; earthquakes have changed the face of it; the hand of man has assiduously overthrown what they had spared: the eye now discovers nothing but fragments of walls, detached door-ways; columns partly in ruin; the ground strewed with fragments of shafts, capitals, and blocks of marble; while heaps of sand and dust are daily covering more and more of these structures, whose remaining masses astonish the imagination. The mosque, the caravanserai, and the dwelling of the Persian are decorated with their spoils; the names of the Musulman conqueror and of the European traveller are placed beside those inscriptions, the origin, signification, and wedge-shaped characters of which will exercise to no purpose the sagacity of the learned. The aqueducts are become receptacles of rain-water or the haunts of noxious animals; the camel and the mule crop the wild herbage that grows among the ruins; while the stork peacefully builds her nest on the column of the temple of the deity or of the palace of kings.'

Gems, principally from the Antique,
drawn and etched by Richard Dagley, author of 'Select Gems,' &c.
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ralds, basalts, blood-stones, turquoises, &c. Mechanical skill attained great excellence at an early period. The stones of the Jewish high-priest's breast-plate were engraved with the names of the twelve tribes, and of those stones one was a diamond!

'The Etruscans, a singular nation, whose existence is scarely known but in the fragments of their arts, but who, on the faith of those fragments, must take a high rank among the polished nations of the old world, have enriched our collections with gems of a compound style. Their general shape is like the Egyptian—that of the scarabæus: and where the shape differs, the scarabæus is frequently found engraved. The subjects are chiefly Greek, but of the more ancient story of Greece: the war of the chieftans of Thebes; Peleus devoting his hair; Tydeus after bathing; Theseus imprisoned by Pluto; Perseus with Medusa's head; Capaneus struck by lightning before Thebes; and Hercules bearing the tripod.

Gem engraving was at length adopted among the arts of Greece, and reached its perfection. The genius which has left so many wonders in the larger sculpture, was displayed with scarcely less power in those minute works; and if the statues of Greece had perished, the fame of her arts might have been sustained by the

exquisite beauty of her gems.

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'The fondness of France for works on the scale that strikes the popular eye, has turned her skill from the minute beauty of gems. She has produced but few artists of reputation; and gem engraving in Paris seems to have nearly perished.

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Of the importance of gems, as illustrating the attributes and tales of mythology, the costumes of antiquity, the romances of the poets, historic events, the progress of the arts, and preserving the portraits of illustrious men, there can be no doubt; and, as the writer of the preface observes, though-The finer order of gems are seldom within the means of private purchasers: yet the art of making pastes, or coloured stones, places all that constitutes the true value of the original, its story and its beauty, within the most moderate expenditure. Sulphur and wax impressions are frequent in Italy; but the best imitations of the antique are the pastes executed by Tassie, of Leicester Square. The sculpture and tint of the gem are copied with an extraordinary fidelity. Tassie's collection, perhaps the most complete in Europe, amounts to about fifteen thousand, and comprises fac-similes of all the célebrated gems.'

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PERICLES AND ASPASIA.

This was the ruler of the land,
When Athens was the land of fame;
This was the light that led the band,
When each was like a living flame.
The centre of earth's noblest ring,
Of more than men, the more than king!
'Yet, not by fetter, nor by spear,

His sovereignty was held or won; Fear'd—but alone as freemen fear; Loved—but as freemen love alone:

He waved the sceptre o'er his kind,
By Nature's first great title—Mind!
Resistless words were on his tongue;
Then Eloquence first flash'd below!

Minerva, from the Thunderer's brow!
And his the sole, the sacred hand,
That shook her ægis o'er the land!
And throned immortal, by his side,

A woman sits, with eye sublime— Aspasia, all his spirit's bride; But if their solemn love were crime,

Pity the beauty and the sage;
Their crime was in their darken'd age.
He perish'd—but his wreath was won—
He perish'd on his height of fame!

Then sank the cloud on Athens' sun;
Yet still she conquer'd in his name.
Fill'd with his soul, she could not die;
Her conquest was posterity!

A beautiful gem of a woman contemplating a household god, affords Mr. Croly a good opportunity, which he has not suffered to escape him, of pourtraying the bliss of domestic affection: That With Of w Shini And When ea

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SOLIS

Is often seen thy beauty to abide;
Thy dwelling is in lowly cottage walls,
That in the thickets of the woodbine hide;
With hum of bees around, and from the side
Of woody hills some little bubbling spring,
Shining along thro' banks with harebells
dyed;

And many a bird to warble on the wing, When Morn her saffron robe o'er heaven and

earth doth fling.

n,

O! love of loves!—to thy white hand is given

Of earthly happiness the golden key!
Thine are the joyous hours of winter's Even,
When the babes cling around their father's
knee:

And thine the voice, that on the midnight sea Melts the rude mariner with thoughts of home, Peopling the gloom with all he longs to see. Spirit! I've built a shrine; and thou hast

And on its altar closed—for ever closed thy plume!'

Castor and Pollux, Leonidas, Sappho, and the Genius of Death, are all subjects of beautiful gems by Mr. Dagley and as elegant illustration by Mr. Croly; but we prefer Pindar, as the one in which the artist and the poet have jointly been the most successful; and with it we conclude our notice of Gems from the Antique:'—

'In the grave this head was laid;—
All its atoms in the sun
For a thousand years have play'd,
Through a thousand shapes have gone;
Quick with life, or cold with death,
Still but withering dust and breath!
It has blossom'd in the flower—
It has floated in the wave—

It has lit the starlight hour—
It has whisper'd through the cave!
Has the spirit perish'd all?
This was but its mouldering wall!

Fame, the prize of life, was won;
Pindar's mighty task was done.
Then on air his wing was cast!
Like a flame the soul has past,
While the ashes rest below;
Like a trumpet's sudden blast,

Gone!—what strength shall check it now?
When the lightning wears a chain,
Pindar's soul shall stoop again!—
Yet the world has need of thee,
Man of immortality!
Greece,—the name is lost in tears,—

Land of laurels, lyres, and spears!
Visions on that spot have birth,
Brighter than are born of earth:
In that soil of glorious strife,
Not an atom but had life,
Glow'd and triumph'd, fought and died,
As the patriot battle's tide,

As the patriot battle's tide,
Flood of arrow, lance, and sword,
O'er the whelm'd invader roar'd.
Hear us! from thy golden sphere!
Shall the eternal sepulchre
Hide the spirit of the land?
Shall no great redeeming hand—

Oh, for such as dyed her seas
In thy day, Miltiades!—
Issuing from her peasant ranks,
Smite the turban'd robber horde,
Till the chain no longer clanks,—
Till the Turkish battle, gored,

Over Helle's purple banks
In returnless flight is poured:—
Till the phalanx, laurel-brow'd,
Like a rolling thunder-cloud,
Like a conflagration sweeping,
Of its plague spot clears the soil;
And no more the voice of weeping,
Woman's shame, or manhood's spoil,
Grieves the listening midnight sky!—
Pindar! shall her glory die!
Shall, like thine, no godlike strain
Teach her to be great again?
Hear us, from thy starry throne
Hear!—by those in Marathon.'

The Case and History of Self-Murder, argued and displayed at large, on the Principles of Reason, Justice, Law, Religion, Fortitude, Love of Ourselves and our Country. 8vo. pp. 36. London, 1822.

Much as we may agree with the arguments and reasonings which can be adduced against the dreadful crime of self-murder, we much doubt that they will be able to lessen its frequency, while our public journalists continue to record and blazon forth every instance that occurs. Those who have attended to the subject can scarcely have failed to observe, that when any suicide, on account of the rank of the individual or the peculiar circumstances of the case, has attracted unusual publicity, it has been followed by numerous instances which fully prove how baneful that publicity has been. More direct proofs of this injury might be adduced in abundance; we shall, however, only mention two:-about twenty or five-and-twenty years ago, a soldier shot himself with his own musket, by fixing a string to the trigger. This event was detailed with singular minuteness in the public journals, and what was the consequence? -Why, that five or six soldiers attempted suicide in the same manner within two months afterwards. To this striking fact may be added another, which occurred within the last twelve months; a boy hearing his friends relate the way in which a man had hung himself on a tree in the neighbourhood, went out almost immediately afterwards, and committed the same horrid crime on the

But, we believe, there is no one, within whose recollection the deaths of Mr. Whitbread, Sir Samuel Romilly, and the last sad instance, that of the Marquis of Londonderry, have occurred, but must have noticed how immediately they have been followed by several instances of self-destruction. Indeed, so convinced are the proprietors of one of the oldest and most respecta-

ble of the daily journals, the Star, of this fact, that they never insert an account of any suicide, except in instances where all attempts to conceal it would be futile, as was the case with the three unhappy individuals we have mentioned; and, even then, the account is inserted with an expression of regret that it cannot be concealed, and a declared conviction that publicity is of the most baneful tendency.

This little pamphlet is well written, and contains, we believe, all the arguments that have generally been adduced against the dire sin of self-murder.

1. The Holy Bible; in which the leading and more interesting Chapters are distinguished for youthful Meditation, and as a Course of Family Reading: to which is prefixed the Porteusian Index.

2. Select Passages from the Bible, arranged under distinct Heads; for the Use of Schools and Families. By Alexander Adams, Teacher. 12mo.

pp. 476. Edinburgh, 1822. IT has long been the opinion of men distinguished for their piety and learning, that although the Bible ought to be read by persons of all characters and distinctions, yet that there might be some judicious direction to the most useful and important passages. Dr. Watts was in favour of selecting and reducing the several subjects into a short and narrow compass. Locke thought it would be well if there were made a good history of the Bible for young people to read, 'wherein,' says he, 'if every thing most proper to be put into it were laid down in its due order of time, and several things omitted, which are suited only to riper age, that confusion, which is usually produced by promiscuous reading of the Scripture, as it lies now bound up in our Bibles, would be avoided.'

A divine of our own times, the late revered Bishop Porteus, entertained somewhat similar opinions, and made a selection of chapters from the Holy Scriptures, for the use of youthful and inexperienced readers. In order to perfect and extend the ideas of the good bishop, a society has been established for the purpose of publishing Bibles on his plan, which are called the Porteusian Bibles. This Bible contains the whole of the sacred text, without note or comment; but the chapters which are of a spiritual, historical, or other peculiar character, are distinguished by a peculiar mark. There is also an index to the principal subjects;

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And no more the voice of weeping,
Woman's shame, or manhood's spoil,
Grieves the listening midnight sky!—
Pindar! shall her glory die!
Shall, like thine, no godlike strain
Teach her to be great again?
Hear us, from thy starry throne
Hear!—by those in Marathon.'

The Case and History of Self-Murder, argued and displayed at large, on the Principles of Reason, Justice, Law, Religion, Fortitude, Love of Ourselves and our Country. 8vo. pp. 36. London, 1822.

Much as we may agree with the arguments and reasonings which can be adduced against the dreadful crime of self-murder, we much doubt that they will be able to lessen its frequency, while our public journalists continue to record and blazon forth every instance that occurs. Those who have attended to the subject can scarcely have failed to observe, that when any suicide, on account of the rank of the individual or the peculiar circumstances of the case, has attracted unusual publicity, it has been followed by numerous instances which fully prove how baneful that publicity has been. More direct proofs of this injury might be adduced in abundance; we shall, however, only mention two:-about twenty or five-and-twenty years ago, a soldier shot himself with his own musket, by fixing a string to the trigger. This event was detailed with singular minuteness in the public journals, and what was the consequence? -Why, that five or six soldiers attempted suicide in the same manner within two months afterwards. To this striking fact may be added another, which occurred within the last twelve months; a boy hearing his friends relate the way in which a man had hung himself on a tree in the neighbourhood, went out almost immediately afterwards, and committed the same horrid crime on the same tree.

But, we believe, there is no one, within whose recollection the deaths of Mr. Whitbread, Sir Samuel Romilly, and the last sad instance, that of the Marquis of Londonderry, have occurred, but must have noticed how immediately they have been followed by several instances of self-destruction. Indeed, so convinced are the proprietors of one of the oldest and most respecta-

ble of the daily journals, the Star, of this fact, that they never insert an account of any suicide, except in instances where all attempts to conceal it would be futile, as was the case with the three unhappy individuals we have mentioned; and, even then, the account is inserted with an expression of regret that it cannot be concealed, and a declared conviction that publicity is of the most baneful tendency.

This little pamphlet is well written, and contains, we believe, all the arguments that have generally been adduced against the dire sin of self-murder.

1. The Holy Bible; in which the leading and more interesting Chapters are distinguished for youthful Meditation, and as a Course of Family Reading: to which is prefixed the Porteusian Index.

2. Select Passages from the Bible, arranged under distinct Heads; for the Use of Schools and Families. By Alexander Adams, Teacher. 12mo. pp. 476. Edinburgh, 1822.

IT has long been the opinion of men distinguished for their piety and learning, that although the Bible ought to be read by persons of all characters and distinctions, yet that there might be some judicious direction to the most useful and important passages. Dr. Watts was in favour of selecting and reducing the several subjects into a short and narrow compass. Locke thought it would be well if there were made a good history of the Bible for young people to read, 'wherein,' says he, 'if every thing most proper to be put into it were laid down in its due order of time, and several things omitted, which are suited only to riper age, that confusion, which is usually produced by promiscuous reading of the Scripture, as it lies now bound up in our Bibles, would be avoided.'

A divine of our own times, the late revered Bishop Porteus, entertained somewhat similar opinions, and made a selection of chapters from the Holy Scriptures, for the use of youthful and inexperienced readers. In order to perfect and extend the ideas of the good bishop, a society has been established for the purpose of publishing Bibles on his plan, which are called the Porteusian Bibles. This Bible contains the whole of the sacred text, without note or comment; but the chapters which are of a spiritual, historical, or other peculiar character, are distinguished by a peculiar mark. There is also an index to the principal subjects;

and a Scripture view of the Christian's faith, duty, and privileges, compiled of passages of Scripture. This Bible has received the sanction of several distinguished living divines of the dissenting persuasion, including Dr. Wangh and Dr. Collyer. The latter reverend gentleman appears to us to have very justly estimated its merits when he says:-

'Although I should recommend the habitual reading of the Scriptures throughout, yet I think this plan, which, without disturbing the arrangement or altering the form of the sacred volume, by a small and intelligible mark, designates chapters and passages of particular importance, likely to be very useful, especially for the use of children and servants.'

Mr. Adams's volume is more on the plan recommended by Dr. Watts: all historical and genealogical registers are omitted, and a collection formed, consisting principally of simple and affecting pussages of Scripture, and of such as are most eminently calculated to cherish in the tender mind sentiments of piety and a tone of virtue. The task appears to be ably executed, and we recommend Mr. Adams's work as a very excellent book for the junior classes in schools, for which it is admirably calculated.

#### ON CHURCH ARCHITECTURE.

[The last number of the Quarterly Review has an excellent article on the various styles of architecture, in which their general misapplication in the erection of public buildings in this country is very properly noticed and condemned. We wish the writer presided over the Committee of Taste and the Committee for the building of Churches; we should then, we believe, neither be disgusted with naked statues in the Park, nor churches which have all the meanness of a stable without, and the gaudiness of a theatre within. The following remarks on ecclesiastical buildings are much to the purpose.—ED.]

A church should never vary from the established plans adopted of old; nor should it be wanting in any one of the parts which we have been accustomed to see in sacred buildings. Durandus, in his description of a church, finds allegories throughout. The four walls are the four cardinal virtues. By the windows the Scriptures are represented. The columns figure the doctors; the steeples are prelates; and he ascends unto the weathercock, which he turns into a tale of mystery. It is not necessary to endue porches and steeples with this kind of reverence; but still it is not proper to innovate by mutilating the building of its accustomed members. The influence of visible objects over the mind cannot be resisted, and the absence of architectural costume, if we may so express ourselves, completely destroys the dignity of the building.

In the disposition of the interior, modern architects vary from the proper ecclesiastical arrangements, in a very unjustifiable manner. It is scarcely possible to create a more palpable blemish than that which is occasioned by placing the pulpit in the centre of the nave. In a dissenting meeting-house, it may be proper to assign this station to the preacher, but it is quite inconsistent with the intent of our liturgy, and should never be tolerated. The situation of the reading-desk below the pulpit, like the desk of an auctioneer's clerk, is equally unappropriate. An organ and an organist over the altar must also be considered as an inexcusable violation of the decency of the building. By considering the plans of the earlier Christian churches, many useful hints may be obtained, particularly respecting the situations to be assigned to the ministers and the congregation. Much information on this subject is collected in the 'Origines Ecclesiasticæ' of Bingham, a writer who does equal honour to the English clergy and to the English nation, and whose learning is only to be equalled by his moderation and impartiality.

Or naments may be soberly and discreetly introduced. When an altar-piece is admitted, it should never be mounted in a fine gilt frame and considered as a picture. In every public building, and, perhaps, in most private habitations, paintings or statues should never bear the appearance of pieces of furniture. They should never look like things which can be put up and taken down at pleasure. The effect produced by such works of art is materially diminished if they seem to be strangers and brought in merely for show. They then are redundant epithets in the work, which it would be better to expunge. On the other hand, their value is greatly increased when they have the distinctive character of being required by the predetermined plans of the architect; and indeed they should never be treated otherwise than as auxiliary to the architecture. Even the clock, which is usually productive of so much unpicturesque deformity in our steeples, might, if the architect considered it, bear the appearance of belonging to him, instead of being supplied 'as per order of vestry' by the manufacturer. In the Flemish churches, instead of the solid shining black face and smart gilt numerals, the architects employ large rings or circles of bronze, between which the figures, cut out of plates of the same metal, are fixed. This open-worked metallic tracery agrees completely with the stone tracery, and does not obscure any part of the architecture. A figure of the sun, the measurer of time, is sometimes placed in the centre of the inner circle, which it supports by its rays; and, when colouring was required, the architects used azure, the tint of the celestial sphere.

Most of our modern churches have a mean appearance in consequence of their want of elevation; they seldom range higher than the adjoining houses. As long!

as the custom of depositing the dead in vaults shall continue to prevail, we may add to the grandeur of the building without increasing the expense. The body of the church might be made to stand upon an undercroft, the pavement whereof should not be more than one or two feet below the level of the adjoining ground. This crypt might be divided into sepulchral chapels, and the monies to be raised by the sale of the right of interment to families, would go in aid of the building funds. No church should be without a lofty steeple. The 'heaven-directed spire' has a sacred dignity which should never be sacrificed, except under the pressure of the most imperious necessity.

There is considerable difficulty in combining a steeple with the orders of Grecian or Roman architecture. Wren mastered the difficulty, and produced combinations scarcely inferior to the Gothic. The Grecian or Roman steeple appears worst and ugliest, when, as at St. Martin's in the Fields, it is seen riding athwart a Corinthian portico, to which it does not bear the slightest affinity; and best, when, according to the favourite practice of Palladio, it stands by the side of the edifice as a campanile or bell lower. When so managed, it is grouped with the lines of the building into a pleasing mass, without being based upon a discordant feature. In London we have only one example of this arrangement. It is exhibited in a building which has been scoffed at and scorned, but which, in truth, is one of the most picturesque in the metropolis—the church of St. George, Bloomsbury. Let any unprejudiced observer view the front of this building, divesting himself of traditionary prejudice, and he will acknowledge the truth of this observation. We will not even censure the statue, which, placed on the summit of the pyramid, appears to look down like a tutelary saint.

## Original Communications.

ANTIQUARIAN REMINISCENCES.

'Forsan et hæc meminisse juvabit.'-VIRG. (FOR THE LITERARY CHRONICLE.)

Cuckold, from cuculus, cuckow, mari cocu. The cuckow is a bird which never builds a nest, but deposits her eggs in that of some other bird, who hatches and adopts her offspring, as the unfortunate man to whom this opprobrious epithet is applied, does children who are not his own. Many reasons have been assigned why horns have been used to designate the dishonoured husband. The most probable is, that it originated in the meanness of husbands, who, to obtain the horn of Amalthea, 'Cornu Copiæ,' suffered their wives to humble themselves, that they might be exalted :-

'Pauper erat fieri vuit dives, quærit et inde, Vendidit uxorem Nænius, emit agrum.'

MARTIAL.

Nenius Has sold The

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Nenius his shatter'd fortunes to regain, Has sold his wife, and purchased a domain.'

The appellation applied to husbands seems to indicate, that his misfortune could only happen through his own deceit or negligence, this bird being represented by Pliny, - infestus cunctis avibus,' and 'pullus avidus ex natură, qui præcipit cibosreliquis pollis.' It was also applied to the lazy vinedresser, who neglected his vines till he heard this bird; Horace alludes to it in his journey to Brundusium .-

'Magna, compellans voce cucullum.'

CORAL; according to the author of the vulgar errors, it was thought to fasten the teeth of men, and to accelerate the growth of those of children, whence it is often used as an appendage to the play-things of infants cutting their teeth; it was considered by the heathens as an amulet against fascination. Pliny alludes to it in these terms: 'Aruspices religiosum coralli gestamen amotiendis periculis arbitrantur, et surculi infantiæ alligati tutelam habere creduntur.'

FAIRS originated in the little intercourse which prevailed among mankind. They are held in privileged places, and persons who vend their wares are subject to toll. At fairs were purchased every article of food; whence the word fare to signify food; and, as it was to them the farmer and trader were obliged to look for the disposal of his goods, arose the expression 'how does it fare with you?' to signify how do you succeed ?

GENTLEMAN. - The primitive christians were distinguished by their name from the gentiles; but when all became christians, the higher classes of the four Roman provinces retained the title of, in France gentil-homme, in Italy, gentil-homo, gentil-huombre in Spain, and gentleman in England.— Gentleman in France was a higher title than that conferred by a patent of nobility, the third in descent being only entitled to that appellation; it is for this reason, that the eldest brother of the king, is called Monsieur, the first gentleman of France.

GUY FAWKES .- The 5th of November the commemoration of the escape from the gunpowder treason. miscreants who were engaged in this diabolical conspiracy, are reputed to have been Roman Catholics, and consequently the odium of it entirely fell upon that body; but there is much reason to think that the ministry were not ignorant of its existence, and connived

an ascendancy over the mind of the king. If the conspiracy is to be attributed to the Roman Catholics, the discovery was also effected through a Roman Catholic, [Lord Monteagle,] who gave the letter he received from his friend, Sir Henry Percy, one of the conspirators, to Lord Salisbury, secretary of state.—Though both of them looked upon it as a hoar, it was laid before the council, when the sagacious James explained the mystery; in justice, therefore, this infernal crime should not be imputed to the Roman Catholics as a body, who, to use the words of a writer of that persuasion, 'are no more chargeable with it, than the twelve apostles were with the treachery of Judas.'

MAID MARIAN-A boy dressed in female attire, who was a prominent performer in the 'morisco,' a Spanish dance vulgarly called 'morris dance.' Marian is derived from the Italian morione, a head-piece, the head being gaily ornamented,

MARRY.—A term of asseveration, was a manner of swearing by the Virgin Mary; Marrow bones, I will make him bend his knees as he does when he prays for the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

No one will be surprised at these etymologies, when he considers the facility with which the moderns metamorphose names; car journalists have been quite disgusted with the ignorance of our neighbours the French, for changing 'Jane Shore' into Jam Show; Mr. Beechey into Mr. Bitche: and Mr. John himself into Monsieur Bif-stek Goddem; but they forget John Bull's talent for manufacturing new readings of old names.

JANITORE—a fish, which the Italian fishermen suppose to be marked with the impression of St. Peter's fingers, and hence called janitore, door-keeper, in allusion to the allegorical presentation of the keys to that apostle but Mr. John has not scrupled, in the face of all decency and decorum, to christen him Johnny Dory. Mr. Booth derives it from the French 'Jaune Dore,' but I think the Italians have that right to the precedence in this instance which they claim for their bishop in spiritualities; but if I grant that we derive it from the French, no one, I presume, will deny that they derived it from the

Another of our countrymen displayed his ingenuity by transforming his sign of La Belle Sauvage into the Bell at it, to further their views, and to gain | and Savage; and the well known cor- a genius for the art in which he has

ruption of the Boulogne-mouth Inn, so called in commemoration of the famous siege of that town by Henry VIII. into the Bull and Mouth.

ROYAL OAK DAY, May the 29th, is celebrated as the birth-day of King Charles II. and also of his mother, Mary, daughter of Henry IV. of France, and by act of parliament, 12 Car. II. to commemorate that monarch's restoration to the legitimate throne of his ancestors. It was on this day, also, that the King went with Queen Catherine after his marriage at Portsmouth to Hampton Court. The common people used party rhimes on this day.-

> 'Royal Oak, The Whigs to provoke.'

The other party wore branches of plane trees in contempt of the custom.

· Plane tree leaves

The church folk are thieves.'

It is unnecessary to remark that the king secreted himself in an oak tree, after the battle of Worcester, from his pursuers, who passed under the very tree in which he was concealed.

THE SILLY HOW, OR CAWL.-A membrane, or film, round the head, with which some children are born. This has been fully and elaborately explained by surgeons to arise either from the weakness of the child, unable to disengage itself from it, or from the thickness of the film itself. They were considered omens of future greatness to those who happened to be born with them; lawyers often purchased them, persuaded that they would contribute to their promotion; some have thought that the black spots in the wigs of sergeants at law originated in this practice. Sailors imagine that they preserve from drowning, and often purchase them at a great price.

UNDER THE ROSE.—This phrase is used when we want to express any thing done secretly. The rose was the flower of Venus which Cupid consecrated to Harpocrates, and therefore an emblem of silence, particularly in affairs of love. 'We all love a pretty girl under the rose.'

Southall, Oct. 29, 1822. J. H.

## Biography.

ANTONIO CANOVA.

THIS distinguished artist, whose death the newspapers have just recorded, was born in the village of Possagno, in the Venetian States, in the year 1757. At a very early age, he evinced

since become so celebrated. When only twelve years of age, he modelled a lion in butter, and sent it to the table of the rich Signor Falieri, who was a liberal encourager of the young artist's rising talent. At the age of seventeen, he executed a Eurydice, half the size of life. He then left his instructor, a sculptor of Bassano, and went to study at the Venetian Academy of Fine Arts, where he obtained several prizes. In 1778, he designed and executed a beautiful group of Dædalus and Icarus, of which the cast is preserved in his studio. This work he brought to Rome, and presented himself at the door of the Venetian ambassador, who would not leave his dinner to notice Canova, but sent an abbé to examine his work; when, after viewing it in every light, and examining it with much care, during all which time Canova underwent the tortures of suspense, the abbé exclaimed, 'C'est une cochonnerie.' This was a sad blow to the hopes of Canova; but, fortunately for him, our distinguished countryman, Sir Wm. Hamilton, hearing of this piece of statuary, sent a request to see it. Charmed yet more with the artist than the work, the generous English ambassador exerted himself in his behalf and encouraged him to proceed; and even the Venetian Senate hearing of the sterling merit of this group, presented Canova with 300 ducats, and further enabled him to finish his studies at Rome. He first distinguished himself in that capital by his 'Theseus seated on the vanquished Minotaur,' which has been very well engraved by Morghen. A group of Cupid and Psyche was the first production which afforded an idea of the originality of Canova's taste in the expression of the softer affections. This was followed in close succession by the group of Venus and Adonis; the mausoleum of Clement XIII., erected in the church of St. Peter at | year. Rome; the figure of Psyche holding a butterfly between her fingers; the penitent Magdalen, one of his chefsd'œuvre, now in the possession of M. Sommariva, at Paris; and the statue of Hebe. After this period, Canova also devoted his talents to subjects of a very different style, of which his two Pugilists (Kreugas and Damoxenus), are the most successful examples. M. Quartremère de Quincy says, speaking of the Kreugas: 'Every thing is grandly expressed; the style is broad and full; there is nothing mean,

to the execution.'—Among the works which he afterwards executed, the most remarkable are, another group of Cupid and Psyche; the mausoleum of the Archduchess Christina of Austria, wife of the Duke Albert of Saxe-Teschen, the idea of which is new and original, though rather confused; and the statue of Ferdinand, king of Naples, which was not executed in marble until the year 1803, though the model was completed in 1797. In 1798, Canova left Italy, to accompany Prince Rezzonico on a journey through Prussia. On his return to Rome, he executed his 'Perseus holding the head of Medusa,' which has been said to equal the Apollo Belvidere, at least as far as regards execution and beauty of form. The Pope purchased it to fill the place of the Apollo in the museum of the Vatican, and appointed the artist Inspector-General of the Fine Arts at Rome. Canova, shortly after, produced a companion to the Perseus in the statue of Mars Pacificator; when Pope Pius VII., in token of his approbation, created him a Roman knight, and, with his own hands, presented to him the insignia of the order. About this period, he received an invitation from Napoleon to visit Paris, for the purpose of executing his bust; but he refused to comply, until the Pope, who happened at that time to be in France, sent his mandate to that effect, which was instantly obeyed by Canova. On being asked by Napoleon why he had not attended to his summons, Canova replied that it was not his duty to obey the commands of any but his own sovereign. He was received in France with the most flattering marks of distinction, and was appointed one of the associates of the Institute. After completing the bust of Napoleon, intended for a colossal statue, which as a whole proved but mediocre, he returned to Rome, at the expiration of the same

The Parisian critics said of this statue that it was very great, without producing a great effect. Perhaps Canova's failure in this figure may be attributed to the little pleasure with which he appeared to undertake it, and his eagernees to return to Italy. Buonaparte observing his impatience, remarked that there were some fine works of art in Paris, to the examination of which some short time, he thought, might be well devoted. 'I have seen them all before,' was the laconic reply of Canova. The statue remained for a long nothing borrowed; it is all ease, even time covered with a curtain in the Mu- the greatest curiosities this country

seum, but was again exhibited on Napoleon's return from Elba, in 1814, when a mould was taken from it, and it was multiplied in all the cast-shops in Paris, but it is now once more doomed to obscurity. In 1815, when the allied powers reclaimed the monuments of art collected in the Louvre, Canova was appointed by the Pope to superintend the removal of those which had formerly adorned the city of Rome. He consequently repaired to Paris, under the title of ambassador from the Pope, and was there commissioned to execute the statue of the Emperor Alexander, which was to be placed in the palace of the senate of St. Petersburgh. From Paris he proceeded to London, principally for the purpose of examining the remains of the temple of Minerva, which the Earl of Elgin had brought from Athens. There he was received with every mark of attention by the most distinguished individuals in the country, and his Royal Highness the Prince Regent presented him with a magnificent snuff-box, set with diamonds. During Canova's residence in London, he went to see the statue of his present Majesty, by Chantry, which stands in the Council-room at Guildhall. In the same room hangs a large picture, by Northcote, representing the death of Wat Tyler. picture caught Canova's attention, and he exclaimed, 'this is the finest modern historical picture I have ever seen! pray who is the artist, I must become acquainted with him.' He accordingly waited on Mr. Northcote a day or two after, when the latter gentleman had an opportunity of returning the compliment, by relating the following anecdote:-When Northcote was in Venice in the winter of 1779, he went to see the pictures in one of the palaces, and observed on the staircase a marble group of modern sculpture, the extraordinary excellence of which astonished him. He immediately turned and expressed his admiration of it to Mr. Prince Hoare, by whom he was accompanied. He inquired what sculptor could have produced so exquisite a work, and received for answer, that it was the performance of a young man of that city, named Canova, who was considered a promising genius.

Canova had been some time in England before he saw the new Waterloo Bridge; and when he accidentally passed by it, he expressed his regret at not having sooner had an opportunity of admiring what he regarded as one of

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tionably the finest bridge in Europe. During his short visit to this country, he obtained such a vast number of commissions, that he has not been able to fulfil them. Several specimens of his talents are already in this country, and a Venus, in the possession of the Marquis of Lansdowne, may, perhaps, be reckoned among the most successful of his works. On his return to Italy he was commissioned by the Pope to restore to their former situations the works of art which had

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just arrived from Paris. On his arrival he was received with every honour. The Academy of St. Luca went in a body to meet him, and the Pope, at a solemn audience, on the 5th of January, 1816, delivered to him, with his own hands, a paper, announcing the enrolment of his name in the book of the capitol. He was shortly after created Marchese d'Ischia, with a pension of 3000 Roman crowns. Canova occasionally turned his attention to the study of painting, and he executed several pictures, one of which has been engraved; the subject is a Venus reclining on a couch and holding a mirror. He also painted a portrait of himself. Among his basreliefs, perhaps the most remarkable is that representing the city of Padua, under the form of a female. Canova's genius was fostered by the writings of the ancient authors. It was his constant practice to have some one to read to him while he was occupied in the execution of his works. The characteristics of his style of sculpture are originality, facility, and fertility of execution. Among his most celebrated works may be reckoned a statue of Napoleon's mother, in the character of Agrippina; a Venus rising from the bath; a statue of the Princess Borghese, half draped, reclining on a couch, with her head resting on one hand, and an apple in the other; the bust of Pope Pius VII.; the bust of the Emperor Francis II.; and a monument to the memory of his friend Valpato, an engraver. Canova has been blamed by some critics for endeavouring to impart to his statues an air of reality, and of heightening their resemblance to nature by artificial means unconnected with the province of sculpture; namely, by colouring the eyes, lips, &c., a practice quite unusual among modern sculptors. This, however, he manages with so much delicacy, that it is scarcely perceptible, and if it do not, as many maintain, impart an additional inst.

possesses; he declared it to be unques- | charm to the statue, it is at least certain | that Canova never suffers the colouring to obtrude so as to become offensive to the eye. It was not to the human figure that the talents of Canova was confined; his admirable work of the two lions which adorn the mausoleum of Pope Clement XIII., in St. Peter's Church, proved that he was no less skilful in representing animals, than in producing the finest forms of the human body. He also made a model of a horse of colossal size, which excited the admiration of all the judges of art, and of all those who have particularly studied this noble and spirited quadruped. This model was cast in bronze at Naples, with complete success. He afterwards executed another model of the same animal, but in an attitude different from the first, which, however, it equalled in merit. Canova, when rich and titled, was the same unostentatious individual as he was when, trembling, he presented himself at the door of the Venetian ambassador with with his group of Dædalus and Icarus. He cared not for personal luxuries, and bestowed the greatest part of his fortune, acquired by his labours, in acts of charity. On occasion of a bad harvest he maintained the poor of his native village one whole winter entirely at his own expense; he afterwards built a church in the same village, and endowed it for the use of his fellow townsmen. To unfortunate artists the house and purse of Canova were at all times open. The manner in which he conferred a favour reflected additional honour on his character. A poor and proud, but indifferent, painter was in danger of starving with his whole family, for no one would employ him. Canova knew this man would not receive a gift; and, in respect to his feelings, he therefore sacrificed his own taste. He requested him to paint a picture, leaving the subject and size to his own choice, and saying he had set apart four hundred scudi (about 100l.) for the purpose; half of which he gave him at the time, and promised the other half should be sent when the work was finished; adding, that the sooner he received it he should be the better pleased.

Canova was very partial to his native country, or rather to Rome; and, when pressed to fix his residence at Paris, he said his genius would become enfeebled sans son atelier, sans ses amis, sans son beau ciel, sans sa Rome.

which the Gazette of Venice of the 13th of October gives the details of the last moments of the most celebrated of modern sculptors :-

'We have to perform a melancholy duty; we have to announce the death of an individual, who was the glory of sculpture and the fine arts-Antonio Canova. He arrived at Venice on the evening of the 4th of October, and brought with him a brother, to whom he was tenderly attached. They alighted together at the house of M. Antonio Francesconi, with whose family Canova was connected by the ties of long continued friendship. He was so ill upon his arrival, that he found considerable difficulty in going up stairs to his bed-chamber.

'From that night he began to experience violent fits of vomiting, which came on every time he took the slightest nourishment, and which were very soon followed by a violent and continual hiccough.

'Every assistance was immediately rendered him by the most skilful physicians in Venice, but it was with the greatest difficulty that they succeeded in diminishing the frequency and intensity of these two symptoms. They found it impossible to eradicate the disease, and to open his bowels, which, in spite of all their exertions, remained obstructed. The patient gradually grew weaker and weaker, and at length, about noon of the 11th instant, it was no longer possible to doubt of the approaching death of this great artist.

'One of his friends, M. le Conseiller Aglietti, undertook the melancholy task of announcing the fatal information to him: his pure soul received it with a calmness and resignation, which formed a worthy termination to a life entirely consecrated to works of benevolence and religion. When he received the sacrament, the sobs which sounded around his bed, gave proof of the sorrow of all the bystanders, and of the emotions which were excited in their breasts by the lively piety with which the sick man cast himself into the arms of his God. He dictated his last will, with a clearness, intelligence, and precision, which distinctly proved he was by no means disturbed by the thought of the proximity of the moment in which he was to appear before the throne of eternal Majesty.

'Some minutes afterwards, he fell into a kind of lethargic sleep, from which he kept waking from time to time. He replied to the questions which were put to him, and sometimes spoke without being questioned; and at these intervals, which occurred frequently, he uttered many religious phrases, which were heard with veneration by all present. His friends entertained for a moment a hope of preserving to the world one of its noblest ornaments.

But neither the attention of his brother, nor the help of medicine, nor the Canova died at Venice on the 12th | hospitable exertions of the family Frances-The following are the terms in | coni, nor the prayers of the town, which,

from the first report of his illness, had been divided between hope and fear, nor the wishes of the great personages, whom respect, friendship, or gratitude, had attracted round his bed, could protract any further the dreadful moment; and on the 12th of October, about 44 minutes after 7 in the morning, the heart of Canova ceased to beat.

'It will belong to his historian to speak at greater length of this immense loss, which, perhaps, will be only repaired after the lapse of many centuries, which will be felt, not only by Italy, but also by the whole of Europe, since, as an illustrious living author has said, when a man has attained to that degree of glory to which Canova had arrived, he no longer belongs to this or that nation, but is the common treasure and pride of the whole universe.'

## ORIGIN OF BULL-BAITING AND

COCK-FIGHTING. THE brutal practice of baiting bulls, which had afterwards the sanction of a barbarous legislature, is said to have taken its rise at Tutbury, in Staffordshire, where, according to a manorial custom, a bull was given by the prior to the minstrels. After undergoing the torture of having his horns cut, his ears and tail cropped to the very stumps, and his nostrils filled with pepper, his body was besmeared with soap, and he was turned out in that pitiable state, in order to be hunted. This was called bull-running; and if the bull was taken, or held long enough to pull off some of his hair, he was then tied to the stake, and baited. In this unfeeling manner, was the most innoxious and useful of the animal creation treated by savage man; by priests and legislators, in too many periods, notwithstanding their high pretensions, equally unenlightened in essentials, with the lowest of mankind! The voluntary combats of animals form a case widely different. Nature herself has sown the seeds of contention in the constitutions of men and beasts; and to witness the equal combats of either, is at least an act of legitimate curiosity, if it be no proof of the softer feelings of the soul. Cock-fighting is said to be very ancient, and of Greek, or even Indian origin; and there are, it seems, at this day, in India, gamecocks of a large size, which equal in desperate valour those of our own country. The following anecdote of an English game-cock, so well pourtrays the nature of that bold and martial species of animal, that I think it worthy of being recorded. In the justly celebrated and decisive naval engagement of Lord Howe's fleet with that of France, on the first of June, 1794, a game-cock on board one of our ships, chanced to have his house beat to pieces by a shot, or some falling rigging, which accident set him at liberty; the feathered hero, now perched on the stump of the main-mast, which had been carried away, continued crowing and clapping his wings during the remainder of the engagement, enjoying, to all appearance, the thundering horrors of the scene.

#### AMÉRICAN CHARACTER OF LORD BYRON'S POETRY.

The following extract from Mr. Frisbie's inaugural address, as Alford Professor of Natural Religion, Moral Philosophy, and Civil Policy, in Harvard University, upon the productions of this celebrated poet, will be read with pleasure, not only on account of the general interest which is felt for the noble author himself, but from the propriety of remark and beauty of illustration in the criticism .- American

Paper.

But in no production of modern genius is the reciprocal influence of morals and literature more distinctly seen than in those of the author of Childe Harold. His character produced the poems: and it cannot be doubted, that his poems are adapted to produce such a character. His heroes speak a language supplied not more by imagination than consciousness. They are not those machines that, by a contrivance of the artist, send forth a music of their own; but instruments through which he breathes his very soul, in tones of agonized sensibility that cannot but give a sympathetic impulse to those who hear. The desolate misanthropy of his mind rises and throws its dark shade over his poetry, like one of his own ruined castles; we feel it to be sublime, but we forget that it is a sublimity it cannot have till it is abandoned by every thing that is kind and peaceful and happy, and its halls are ready to become the haunts of outlaws and assassins. Nor are the more tender and affectionate passages those to which we can yield ourselves without a feeling of uneasiness. It is not that we can here and there select a proposition formally false or pernicious—but that he leaves an impression unfavourable to a healthful state of thought and feeling, peculiarly dangerous to the finest minds and most susceptible hearts. They are the scene of a summer evening, where all is tender, and beautiful, and grand; but the damps of disease descend with the dews of heaven, and the pestilent vapours of night are breathed in with the fragrance and balm, and the delicate and fair are the surest victims of the exposure.'

### Original Poetry.

SONNET.

THE bold Thumpardo had both strength and age. Dark was his visage, nervous was his arm; In fiery warfare oft he would engage, And peaceful silence had for him no charm.

Fierce blaz'd the fire in this Thumpardo's cave, When lo, with trembling haste, two lovers

And begg'd that he, their tender souls to save. Would add to Hymen's torch a gentle flame. Twas done! and soon the torch with fervour

But, as young lovers are too apt to pout, I do'nt expect to find you much amaz'd When I proclaim, that quickly it went out! Who is Thumpardo?—Reader, well I ween The blacksmith who resides at Gretna Green!!! J. M. LACEY.

#### TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

Tis not to hear thy lay. Melodious nightingale! I wander lone, Where wild flowers, in the setting sun, Exhale the exquisite perfume of May; Though thou canst charm the hour

The lover else would deem an age, if she Beloved did not anticipating flee To meet him, punctual, at th' appointed bower!

Of fairy-land thou art

The melodist; and never till thou call, Where bright the moonbeams on the water

The happy elfins from the greenwood start.

In other lands I've seen

The flowery lindens where th'enthusiast\*

To list thy music with his being blent— And gaze upon the soft and silent scene! And now I but recal

To hear thee-images of past delight; The bitter thought that I must ever fall Deeper and deeper into age's blight. MAC.

#### THE FAIR STRANGER.

Translated from the German of Schiller.

FAR in a rural veil appear'd,

'Midst shepherds poor, each infant year, Soon as the lark's first thrill was heard, A maiden strange, and wond rous fair.

The vale was not her native place, Yet, whence she came no shepherd knew, And of her vanish'd every trace, When she the valley bade adieu.

All whom the maid approach'd still found The bosom with delight expand; But to wealth's slaves or despots crown'd, She ne'er unveiled her aspect bland.

The nymph brought with her fruits and flow'rs Which 'neath a brighter sun had grown; 'Midst richer vales and sweeter bow'rs, In some more blissful clime unknown.

She gifts dispens'd to all who came,— Some, fruits she gave, and flowers to some; And tott'ring age and youth, the same From her return'd with presents home.

To her was welcome every guest; But most a faithful loving pair-Them with the choicest boon she blest, P. D. The flow'rs most beautiful and rare.

\* Klopstock.

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IMPROMPTU,

On seeing the new Actress (Miss Chester) in Comedy.

ASTREA long since left the earth, So, too, THALIA, queen of mirth! But this returns; and all attest her, Though chang'd her name (how sly!)

ON DRURY LANE THEATRE BEING CON-SIDERABLY REDUCED IN SIZE.

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crs

e,

our

THIS Elliston's a cunning elf, Inordinate his love of pelf, Nothing can that control; Hence his small theatre. You laugh, But he, like Hesiod, knows that half PROBUS. Is better than the whole.\*

### The Drama

AND PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

DRURY LANE THEATRE. - Melpomene and Thalia divide their empire at this house, and rule with sovereign sway over a host of loving subjects. Wild Qats and The Road to Ruin, both of which are so admirably performed at this theatre, have been repeated; and on Saturday Dr. Hoadly's comedy of the Suspicious Husband was performed to a very crowded audience. This comedy, though somewhat deficient in design, succeeds by the busy activity of the plot, which keeps the attention of the audience constantly alive. Most of the characters are real; the incidents peculiarly interesting; the catastrophe pleasing; and the language pure, spirited, and natural. The characters are generally well drawn, particularly that of Ranger, which is a most finished portrait of the lively, honest, and undesigning rake. Garrick used to play this character inimitably; it has, however, long had a very able representative in Mr. Elliston; - 'age toils after him in vain' in this character, for he plays it with as much vivacity as he did twenty years ago. 'Not that we mean to say that Mr. Elliston's eld—quite the reverse'—but that twenty years often makes sad havock in characters like that of Ranger. Mrs. Davison made her first appearance this season as Clarinda, and was received with the most hearty welcome; how she performed this character we need scarcely add—she was as excellent in it as ever. All the other characters were well sustained.

On Wednesday night, Mr. Young appeared in Macbeth, which we have seen him play better: there were many excellencies in his performance, but he

\* 'Fools, blind to truth! nor knows their erring soul,

How much the half is better than the whole.'-

WORKS AND DAYS.

was somewhat too boisterous in one or two scenes. Mrs. W. West was pretty successful in Lady Macbeth.

On Thursday evening, after the comedy of Wild Oats, a new ballet divertisement was produced, entitled The Venetian Nuptials; or, the Guardian Outwitted. Unlike most ballets of modern times, it has a connected love story, which can easily be traced; thus we have two pairs of lovers and an old guardian, who has the double duty of looking after his ward and her attendant, to preserve them from two lovers they had selected for themselves against his will. After the usual difficulties were encountered and overcome, the parties are of course united. Ballet included all the strength of the company in that department; we had Mr. and Mrs. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Byrne, and Miss Tree, whose varied styles of dancing, (all excellent) had a charming effect. The scenery and decorations were very beautiful, particularly a view of Venice with the gondolas, which formed a very pretty coup-d'æil. The ballet was received with unmixed approbation.

COVENT GARDEN.—The only novelty at this theatre, since our last, is The Irish Tutor, or New Lights; a little humourous piece in one act, said to be translated from the French, but has been claimed as originally an English production; it was played the first time on Monday evening, was extremely well received, and has been repeated every night .- The story is simple: Tillwell, (Mr. Chapman), who has felt and sincerely laments the loss of good education, is desirous that his son's should be finished by an eminent professor, and for this purpose writes to London; the learned gentleman applied to, being ill, declines the liberal offers of Tillwell, and entrusts his answer to Terry O'Rourke, his footman, an ignorant impudent Irishman, (Mr. Connor) who resolves to suppress it, and presents himself dressed in his master's apparel, where he is well received by his illiterate patron, but discovered by the maid servant, who recognizes him as her lover; she discloses the secret to her young master (Mr. Hunt,) who turns the discovery to his advantage by making his tutor assist him in bringing about an alliance with a young lady, which is at length effected to the satisfaction of all parties. This story affords many laughable situations, in which Mr. Connor shows his power in personating the Irish character with great effect. He has a rival in a coun- I were, in the eye of the audience-the fa-

try schoolmaster (Mr. Blanchard) and to these two belong all the praise to which the performance is entitled. On the same evening Miss Paton repeated the character of Polly, in the Beggars' Opera, but has since suffered so much from indisposition, that she could not appear as Mandane, in Artaxerxes, which was announced for Wednesday, and consequently postponed, and the Clandestine Marriage promised in its stead; but this was also changed for The Wonder, in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Davenport, who was to have played Mrs. Heidelberg.

On Thursday, the Jealous Wife was repeated, Miss Chester and Mr. C. Kemble playing Mr. and Mrs. Oakley in most admirable style.—The house

was well attended.

ASTLEY'S AMPHITHEATRE. - We have not yet had leisure to visit the Amphitheatre, which, we find, has passed under the management of Mr. Charles Dibdin, whose talents cannot fail of producing much better pieces than have generally been represented at this theatre. The horses and the horsemanship, we hear, are as excellent as ever.

#### MR. MATHEWS IN AMERICA.

This genuine son of Momus has made his bow before an American audience. On arriving at New York, Mr. Mathews found the situation of that city, in consequence of the yellow fever, to be very unfavourable to his views, and he therefore proceeded to Baltimore, where he was announced as ' the celebrated Mr. Mathews,—the most extraordinary comic performer in the world.' The Baltimore Theatre opened on the 23d of September, and on the following evening Mr. Mathews was at 'at home' to the Baltimoreans; what a reception they gave him will be seen by the following article from a Baltimore paper of the 26th ult. :-

'MR. MATHEWS appeared last evening before a full and brilliant audience; and we never saw an audience more absorbed and delighted. If the experiment had not been fully tried, it would be considered incredible, that any one man, by the variety of his tones, the extent of his theatrical reading, the flexibility of his countenance, and the rich humour of his style and manner, could satisfy raised expectation, and keep his hearers in either a roar of applause, or in a state of tranquil pleasuse. There is no 'stage trick' about his arrangements or his subjects. He does not need the adventitious aid of scenery. The admirable ease with which he changed the costume or his characters, as it

cility with which he adopted the pronunciation and manner of the French, either correct or burlesqued--the wonderful power of managing his features, and adapting them to the variety of personations he exhibited—the general and perfect knowledge of English manners, which he displayed - and the good nature with which he held the 'mirror up to nature;' all these showed us, at least, something which we have never seen before. An ordinary strain of panegyric for Mr. Mathews would be inappropriate--Those who do not choose to see him can stay 'AT HOME.'

'His songs were introduced with great felicity, and excited high applause. In short, he is one of those men who may properly be termed a singular character: and we are not aware of any principle of the sublime religion, that furnishes the best of our hopes, which forbids us to ' laugh when we can, and be happy when we may;'-when our mirth is unalloyed by a single sentiment or illusion which could shock the most scrupulous mind.

'It may not be improper to add, that Mr. Mathews' powers, in some scenes, give a very pleasing specimen of ventriloquism. Few of the audience could readily believe, that the varient and rapid changes of his voice in the dialogue, were

from the same lips.'

## Literature and Science.

Mr. H. Remy, bookseller and publisher at Brussels, has concluded an arrangement with Count Las Cases to publish here, on the same day as at Paris, his Memorial de Saint Helene, 8 Vols. 8vo. Another edition will be in 8 Vols. 12mo. The work will be illustrated by a very detailed map of St. Helena, and a plan of Longwood.

Mr. Hoffman, a professor in the University of Warsaw, has discovered a new apparatus for swimming. It consists of a copper jack with linen fastenings on the feet, giving resemblance to those of a fowl simming. With the assistance of this machine the most inexperienced can save themselves in the lice officers with lynx-eyed sharpness; most rapid torrents. It cannot but be of great utility in cases of shipwreck, and in the removal of troops from one side of a river to the other. The result of experiments proves that one hundred and twenty steps can be made by a person using it in a minute.

From the collections in the Paris Museums, M. Humboldt estimates the known species of plants at 56,000, and those of animals at 51,700; among which are 44,000 insects, 4,000 birds, 700 reptiles, and 5000 mammalia. In Europe live about 400 species of birds, 80 mammalia, and 30 reptiles; and in

Cape, we find likewise almost five thus subdivided,-172,000,000 in Eutimes more birds than mammalia. Towards the equator, the proportion of birds, and particularly of reptiles, increases considerably. According to Cuvier's enumeration of fossil animals, it appears, that in ancient periods, the globe was inhabited much more by mammalia than birds.

French Royal Library. — In the catalogue of the Royal Library at Paris, the English works are most ridiculously and amusingly classed. They are frequently placed under the christian instead of the surname of the author; the consequence of which is, that John, Thomas, and William are very voluminous authors.

An author appears here unknown in England, called Herself, under the letter H.; and this designates 'The Memoirs of Letitia Pilkington, written by herself.' Another book is titled as follows: 'The following Dialogues are with the highest esteem and gratitude,' I vol. The title-page has most probably been lost, and this appears to be a part of the dedication. But this extreme ignorance in a literary institution could not occur in England.

There are several English books of value in the library: most of the ancient county histories, Dugdale's works, Stow's London, &c. &c. These are principally to be found under the letter N. But as there are no distinct catalogues, nor any classification of books written in foreign languages, the attempt to discover an English work is necessarily a task of toil and application.

Altogether, this establishment, with its boasted freedom of access, cannot be compared with the British Museum. At the former, every person who enters is looked upon with suspicion; he is treated with a tone of insolent rudeness, and he is watched by a squadron of poand when he departs he must be very careful that his pockets do not invite the scrutiny of the porter. All these ungentlemanly restraints on literary research necessarily drive away those whose feelings have any remains of sensibility. The class of students who are seated at long tables with a profusion of oblong spitting boxes, are not of the most inviting appearance, and a seat at their tables does not seem to be either inviting or desirable.

Population of the World.—According to a Statistical Chart, published in a Neapolitan journal, the universal po-

rope; 330,000,000 in Asia; 70,0,00000 in Africa; 40,000,000 in America; and 20,000,000 in the other parts. Estimated by approximation,-In Europe, births per annum, 6,371,370; per diem, 17,453; hour, 727; minute, 62; second, 1. Deaths per annum. 5,058,822; per diem, 13,860; hour, 577; minute, 66; second, 1. In the entire universe, births per annum, 23,407,407; per diem, 64,130; hour, 2,672; minute, 148; second 8. Deaths per annum, 18,588,235; per diem, 50,927; hour, 2,122; minute, 135; second, 7. Persons arrived at the age of 100,-In 1800, according to Larrey, there were at Cairo 35 individuals who had attained to the age of 100 and upwards. In Spain, in the last age, were to be seen at St. Jean de Page, a town of Gallicia, 13 old persons, the youngest of whom was 110, and the oldest 127; their ages made together 1499 years. England is generally accounted to contain 3100 individuals of 100 years At the commencement of the present century, there were in Ireland 41 individuals from the age of 96 to 104, in a population of 47,000 souls. In Russia, amongst 891,652 dead, in 1814, there were 3,531 individuals of from 100 to 132 years of age. In Hungary, the family of John Kovan has furnished an example of the most extraordinary longevity. The father lived 172 years, his wife 164 years; they were married for 142 years, and the youngest of their children was 115.

EXPEDITION TO THE INTERIOR OF THE GLOBE.

In some of the early numbers of the Literary Chronicle, we gave an account of the theory of Mr. John Cleves Symmes, a native of the United States. This gentleman, whom the American editors assure us 'is not mad, but speaking the words of truth and soberness,' is of opinion that the world is hollow, and that it is open at both poles; and he boldly offered to explore it, if he was provided with a hundred brave fellows, and the necessary funds. These he has not been yet able to obtain, but he still persists in maintaining the correctness of his theory, and his resolution to undertake the daring exploit. The following address is copied from the Baltimore Chronicle of Sept. 20. :-

Newport, Kentucky, Aug. 2. To the editors of the public journals throughout the United States.

'John Cleves Symmes, having for sethe opposite southern zone, on the pulation of the globe is 632,000,000, | veral years past been engaged in conof our pl mind, an character and inter poles; h to demoi and neces exploring by way Such an not only of our ris time, to ledge, an the land at large. · He

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templating and discussing the physiology of our planet; and having satisfied his own mind, and the minds of many enlightened characters, that it is composed of an outer and interior world or worlds, open at both poles; he is still, as heretofore, anxious to demonstrate, at all hazards, the truth and necessity of his theory, by personally exploring the new world of the concave, by way of either of the polar openings. Such an attempt, he flatters himself, would not only result in the never-fading fame of our rising nation, but add, at the same time, to the general stock of useful knowledge, and diffuse incalculable benefits on the land of his nativity, and on the world

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'He is not unaware that his positions may probably, for some time yet to come, continue to be, as they have heretofore been, treated by the many, (a majority of whom have, perhaps, not examined them) as the visionary schemes of an enthusiastic projector. This was not, at first, expected by him: but it has happened in his case, and, as human nature is constituted, the like must often happen, in a greater or less degree, to such new suggestions as present a boldness of feature, calculated, as it were, to take men by surprise. All other considerations apart, is it presumable that the Creator, whom we are confident has done nothing in vain, created this our earth, for the single purpose of occupying its surface alone with animated matter, while the great bulk of it would be suffered to remain an inert and useless mass? This, it seems, would but ill comport with the wise economy that appears to pervade the universe.

'Those who may believe in this new theory of the earth, either in whole or in part, and those believing only in the possibility of its truth, the subscriber now invokes: he desires that some one in each populous neighbourhood throughout the Union, may write, circulate for subscription, and ultimately forward to Washington (early in the ensuing session) a memorial to Congress, of the following import, viz.

We, the subscribers, are of opinion that both the public interest and the national honour would be promoted, by equipping an exploring party, to be constituted as follows, viz. Two vessels, well found for the purpose, furnished with suitable materials, and preparations to enable the party to travel, when beyond the temperate parallel, either by land or on the ice, and provisioned for two years; also, furnished with such articles as may be acceptable to the aboriginal natives, whom the party may happen to meet with. And it is our further opinion, that a few scientific and enterprising men should be selected and attached to the expedition,

'We, therefore, pray Congress to grant an exploring outfit, in conformity to our shave once in the week, and 20 might be disposed to retain the week, and 20 might be disposed to retain the week, and 20 might be disposed to retain the week, and 20 might be disposed to retain the week.—Applications, they had received at my hands.

and a liberal allowance made for their

support, and that they be provided with

suitable instruments and apparatus for tak-

memorial, and thereby at once subserve the cause of philosophy and the wishes of a large portion of your constituents.

\* \* \* The author has completed (ready for engraving) a map of the northern hemisphere-in conformity to his theoryincluding the concave, as well as the convex zones, showing both the real and apparent place of the verge, and thereby exhibiting the general inclination of the plane of the polar opening, and relatively to the apparent verge, the consequent curves of the meridians, (both the inner and outer) where they wind up—slopes almost parallel with the ridge of the verge —to their junction on the high shoulder, also the winding curvature of the parallels of latitude, where they pass over either slope of the opening, eastwardly on the one hand, and westwardly on the other,

until they close in the concave. 'The author is now able to show the location of the true verge with confidence. He at first presumed the verge to exist near where he, on this map, locates the apparent verge, but he has subsequently found (what is probably owing to refraction, and to the verge being all a water level, and the turn gradual, that the existence of the verge is unknown to its inhabitants, and that it is located within the civilized regions of Europe, and considerably to the south of some settlements of white people in America; and many hundred miles this side of the apparent verge; the concave space between the two being bent out and elevated to an apparent continuous convexity, by means of an extraordinary refraction, and gradually falling off inwardly every where beyond the the apparent verge; preserving, however, throughout the concave, an apparent convex surface; all of which is proveable by many directly applicable and excellent tests, both animate and inanimate.'

## The Bee.

EPIGRAM.

'Jack has paid the debt of Nature,' Faro said;
'Ah, and the first,' cries Sam., 'he ever paid;'
'Twas the first debt,' cries Joe, 'he ever made.'

Professions in Spain .- ( From the Madrid Government Gazette, Feb. 9, 1822.) - [ Advertisement.] - Wanted a Surgeon. In the town of Argete, about five leagues distant from this Court, and containing \$50 families, there is vacancy for a surgeon; the salary is 7000 reals per annum, payable by the corporation, besides which there are three priests and the collector of the tobacco dues, who pay separately; those inhabitants who wish to be shaved, in their own houses pay 40 reals per annum if they require to be razored twice in the week, and 20 reals per annum for those who only

post paid, addressed to the Constitutional Corporation, will be admitted until the 15th instant.'

Among the Athenians it was a mark of nobility to have the ears perforated, but among the Hebrews and Romans it was a mark of servitude, until luxury had taken root among the latter, when pearls and other ornaments were suspended from the ears, which were bored for that purpose.

A Black Cat, or Sailor's Superstition .- Capt. Stewart, who was cut off in the very bloom of his distinguished faculties and professional talents, when cruizing off the Italian coast, had passed several days without seeing a ship; he learnt that the men ascribed this inauspicious circumstance to the captain's having taken a black cat on board from the last port they had touched at. He immediately called the men aft, and asked them if it really was so; they without hesitation confirmed the report—overboard with the black cat !- 'That,' exclaimed an old seaman, 'is worse still, she must be landed.'- Then lower away the jollyboat,' said the captain; the cat was safely landed with much formality on an island in sight; and, as a coincidence of circumstances brought it about, that same night, they took the best prize which they had captured in the Mediterranean.

Tenacity of Life in Bees .- The following singular instance of the great tenacity of life in bees is related by Mr. Beddome, chemist, of Tooley Street :- I had purchased 20 large hives, and a hogshead of Dutch honey in the natural state not separated from the wax, which had been in my friend's warehouse above a year; and, after emptying my hives as well as I could, I boiled them for a considerable time in water, to obtain what honey remained between the interstices. A considerable number of bees that had been mixed with the honey were floating on the surface of the water, and these I skimmed off and placed on the flagstones outside my laboratory, which was at the top of the house, and then exposed to a July meridian sun. You may imagine my astonishment when, in half an hour, I saw scores of these same bees that had been for months in a state of suffocation, and then well boiled, gradually come to life and fly away! There were so many of them that I closed the door, fearing they might be disposed to return and punish me for the barbarous usage BYRON, MOORE, AND SCOTT.

Three poets, in one lucky century born, Aspired three sister kingdoms to adorn. One hated all mankind worse than the Devil; Oue lov'd all women, whether good or evil; The third, true to the land from which he came, Lov'd money best; and who the man can blame? Since one rich bard will more observance find Than twenty wand'ring Homers, poor and blind; And rhyme and wealth, united, raise more won-

Than genius cloth'd in lightning, rags, and

A Republican Levee .- The austere spirit of democracy was sorely scandalized by the President Washington's levees, simple and unostentatious as they were; and drew forth many predictions that, by such assimilations to the ways of kings, America would be gradually deprived of her liberties. The President's own account of the ceremonial, which excited these portentous speculations, will perhaps amuse our readers:— Between the hours of three and four every Monday, I am prepared to receive visits. Gentlemen, often in great numbers, come and go, chat with each other, and act as they please. At their first entrance they salute me, and I them; and as many as I can talk to, I do. What pomp there is in all this, I am unable to discover. Perhaps it consists in not sitting. To this two reasons are opposed: first, it is unusual; secondly (which is a more substantial reason) because I have no room large enough to contain a third of the chairs which would be necessary. Similar to these, but of a more familiar and sociable kind, are the visits every Friday afternoon to Mrs. Washington, where I always am. These public meetings, and a dinner once a week to as many as my table will hold, is as much, if not more, than I have leisure for.'

#### TO READERS & CORRESPONDENTS. mm

ELFRIDA, Anecdotes by J. H., and an Epigram by O. F., in our next.

The Lines beginning-

Love is but at best a treach'rous wight,

Sent to mislead weak mortals from the right

Road, &c.

are inadmissible, as are those of Nudicus, L. P.Q, Justitia, and our correspondent from Halifax, and the gentleman with a dozen asterisks -we protest against a constructive pun on the word, as we do not mean one.

To Marian, and all those who have made Achilles the subject of their pens, we beg leave to state, that we have done with the fellow, and that he is now in the hands of Mr. Charles Dibdin, who promises to give a good account of him in a pantomime at Astley's.

The letter to 'My Dear Miss A-' had surely no business in our letter-box; we wish we could forward it to the lady.

Advertisements.

J. MAJOR'S EDITION OF WALTON AND COTTON's COMPLETE ANGLER .- Speedily will be published (price, in foolscap 8vo., 18s. or, in large crown 8vo., with proof impressions of the plates, 11. 16s. boards, ) a new and highly inlustrated edition of the above-named work; with copper-plates improved from the designs of Wale, &c., and upwards of seventy original vignette embellishments in wood, by and after first rate artists; the whole comprising most accurate representations of the various river fish, from paintings executed expressly for this edition, by A. Cooper, Esq. R. A. and Mr. W. Smith. Numerous correct views of the actual scenery of both parts of the work, from original drawings; Portraits of the most interesting persons mentioned by Walton and other subjects, calculated to highten the pleasure of perusal to the sportsman, the naturalist, the lover of the fine arts, and the general reader, to 'artists and lovers of art, poets and lovers of poetry.'

This work, which has necessarily occupied the proprietor's attention for a long space of time, is at length nearly ready for publication, and the earlier impressions will be appropriated in the order in which names are received. Printed at the Shakspeare Press for John Major, removed from Skinner Street to No. 50 Fleet Street, corner of Serjeant's Inn, where the original paintings, and specimens of the other

embellishments may be seen.

LITERARY CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY REVIEW,

Office, 355, Strand, second door East of Exeter Change.

J. LIMBIRD, PUBLISHER of THE LITERARY CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY REVIEW, begs to suggest to Subscribers the expediency of completing their sets, as it will be recollected that, towards the close of the last year, considerable difficulty was experienced, particularly with the Country Edition. No. 179 and several others have been reprinted; but there are still some Nos. of which very few remain, and which will not be reprinted: these, of course, will be sold to the first applicants, and will afterwards he attainable only with complete sets.

The Conductors of THE LITERARY CHRONI-CLE have recently issued a Circular, of which

he following is a copy:—

'TO ADVERTISERS.

THE LITERARY CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY REVIEW having been nearly Four Years before the Public, during which period it has rapidly advanced in character and circulation, now presents inducements to Advertisers which no Newspaper or Magazine can pretend to; since it must be obvious, from the nature of its contents, that, as it is purchased only by the intelligent, inquiring, and most respectable classes of Society, no channel can be more suitable for Advertisements connected with Literature, Science, the Arts, Education, Amusements, &c.

'Besides, THE LITERARY CHRONICLE is a work of permanent interest; therefore, when the ephemeral character of a Newspaper shall have led to its destruction, and the advertising wrappers of a Magazine no longer exist,—the Advertisements placed in its pages, are bound up in the Volumes, and thus remain permanently associated with the history of every thing that is interesting in Literature and the Arts.

Advertisements and Communications for THE LITERARY CHRONICLE AND WEEKLY REVIEW (post paid) are received by J. LIMBIRD, as above, of whom may be had the following publications :--

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2. A MEMOIR of the Late the Most Hon. the Marquis of LONDONDERRY, in which is given the most faithful Particulars of his Death; the Coroner's Inquest, with the Evidence at full length; also, a LETTER from His Grace the Duke of Wellington to Dr. Bankhead, concerning his Lordship's state of Mind.—6d.

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6. POEMS on His Majesty's Visit to Scotland. By Sir Walter Scott, Bart. and others.

7. SATIRES, SONGS, and ODES. By the Right Hon. George Canning, M. P.—8d.

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What is thy name that meets the ear

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Dedicated to the King.

'Love's but the frailty of the mind.'

\*\*\* New Publications, Periodicals, and Newspapers, supplied by J. LIMBIRD, with the strictest punctuality.

Nov. 1, 355, Strand.

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